

North Fork Shenandoah Harmful Algal Bloom: Drinking Water Impacts

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Timeline - Drinking Water HAB Response

July 30 - Town of Strasburg detects anatoxin-a in raw and finished water using Abraxis test strips (not definitive; qualitative in nature).

August 5 - Town of Strasburg, Town of Woodstock, and City of Winchester met with EPA to discuss optimizing water treatment processes.

September 1 - Town of Strasburg performs final sample collection for ELISA testing, indicating anatoxin-a was below detectable levels.

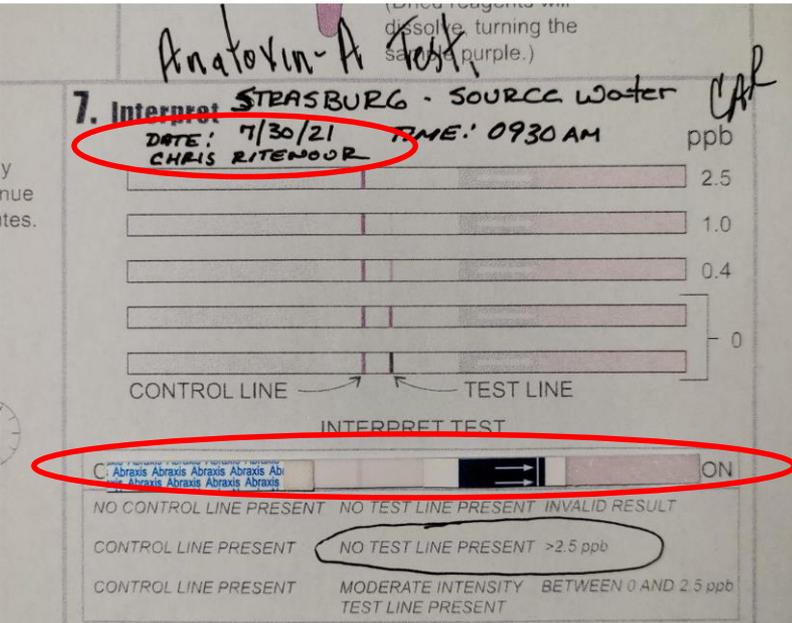
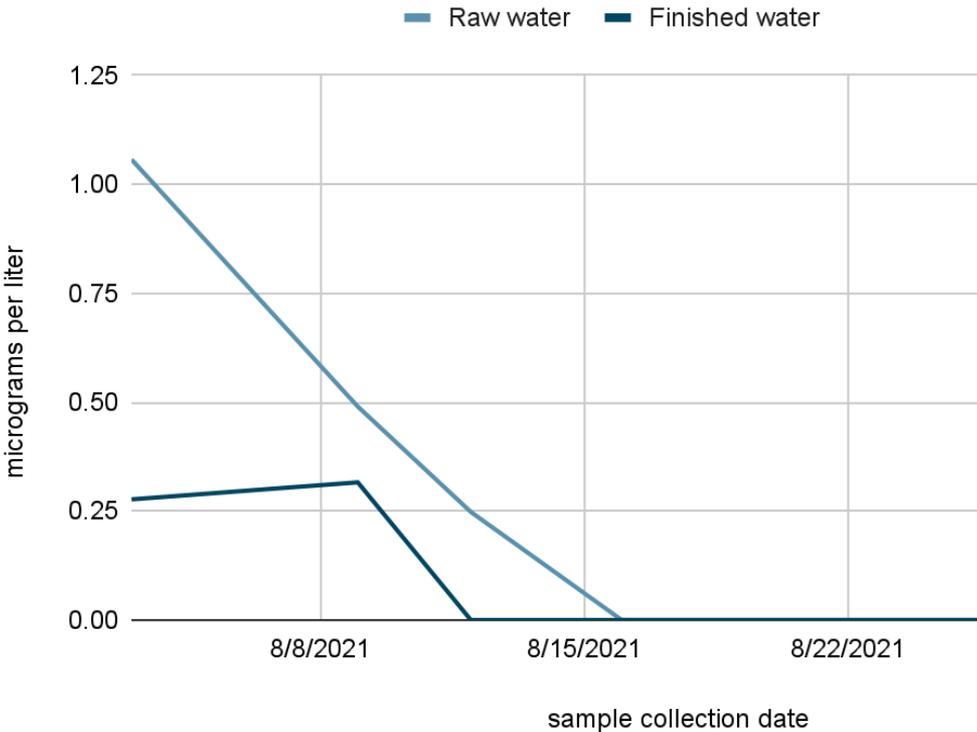
Conducted a few more weeks of monitoring using Abraxis test strips, then discontinued monitoring.

August 3 - Town of Strasburg collects first sample for ELISA testing - anatoxin-a detected in raw and finished water (quantitative, but can over-report).

Began twice-weekly ELISA testing
Began preparing for "do not drink" advisory

August 16 - Town of Strasburg's sample results indicated anatoxin-a was below detectable levels.

Anatoxin-a detection in Town of Strasburg (Drinking Water)



Micrograms per liter = ppb (parts per billion)

Drinking Water Notifications

Public

- Weekly press releases sharing results of cyanotoxin testing in all three localities.

Federal Government

- Regular meeting with Environmental Protection Agency to discuss plans, ongoing actions, and needed resources.

State and Local Government

- Regular conversations to share test results and discuss contingency planning for a potential “do not drink water” advisory.

Water Treatment Plants

- Daily conversations with operators to discuss testing, planning, and needed resources.

Drinking Water Lessons Learned and Plans for 2022

HAB Plan

- Testing frequency
- Testing type
- Monitoring strategy

Procurement and Funding

- Procurement turnaround time
- HAB monitoring funding sources need to be identified

Ongoing or Pre-detection Monitoring

- No decisions made - a discussion is warranted

Contact Me

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